

# *News for the Pews*

Volume 1, Number 11

April 6, 2019

April has gotten off to a rather sad start, with Wednesday's death of Marcella Sax Melton Holloway and her Saturday morning funeral. Still, if we're true Christians, we have to believe she's in heaven having fun with all her friends and relatives. Our condolences to her offspring and descendants, and especially to Charlie, who's having to bury his second wife in the past few years.

The Knights of Columbus held our usual first-Wednesday meeting this week, with no especially noteworthy developments. We are planning to complete the parish playground equipment in May. I was hugely disappointed when David Tencleve passed on the opportunity to sing the opening ode.

We had our third fish fry Friday (4/5) and continued our efforts to rebuild church funds in the wake of the HVAC system replacement. [By the way, donations have reached \$123,788.] James "The Body" Dahlem is running a split the pot stretch raffle each week and has been joined by Adam "The First" Wiederkehr running a 'make a basket/win a St. Mary's t-shirt' game. Of course, they (the t-shirts) are still for sale (as for James and Adam, you'll have to check with them). Both games are fun. The last 2019 fish fry is Friday (4/12).

The quilters are keeping their tradition of meeting on Tuesday mornings. They've reportedly finished a couple of beautiful queen-size quilts (with lots and lots of quilting) and three baby quilts. The quilt for the Thanksgiving raffle is also done. They welcome all who are interested. If you don't want to quilt, you can thread needles.

The scripture study of the gospel of John is ongoing. I believe we'll have one more week of meetings, all 5! groups, break for Holy Week and then resume for four more weeks. I'm enjoying it, although I was rather uncomfortable with the question of having Jesus tour your home. I'm sure

he'd say "You've got so much 'stuff'," with the obvious implication that I could do with much less. These sessions give you lots of food for thought.

One big event coming at 7:00 PM on April 9 will be a Reconciliation Service, to which Father Pius has invited two Subiaco priests to help him hear our confessions. I know we have lots of Mary Poppins-type folks in the parish (practically perfect in every way), but the church still encourages us to receive the sacrament of reconciliation at least once each year. So, we'll have one priest trying to deal with all my sins, while the two others handle everybody else. Stations of the Cross will be celebrated again at 7:00 PM on April 12.

Next Sunday, April 14 promises to be busy. It's Palm Sunday, so we'll have the blessing and distribution of palms. Try not to put anybody's eye out playing with them (this means YOU Bob Conrad). Mass will be followed by the April meet-n-greet in Lawrence Hall. Come one, come all. Also, the Parish Council will meet at 4:00 PM that day. All interested parishioners are invited.

Holy Week then follows. And while it's not officially a holy day of obligation, ~5:30 PM, April 15 will mark the monthly meeting of the St. Joseph society. (I would also point out that it's the income tax filing deadline.) Remember that Holy Thursday commemorates the establishment of the Holy Eucharist. Mass will be followed by Eucharistic adoration until 9:00 PM. Good Friday services will begin with Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM, with the usual service starting at immediately after. Did you know Good Friday is the only day of the year when Mass is not celebrated?

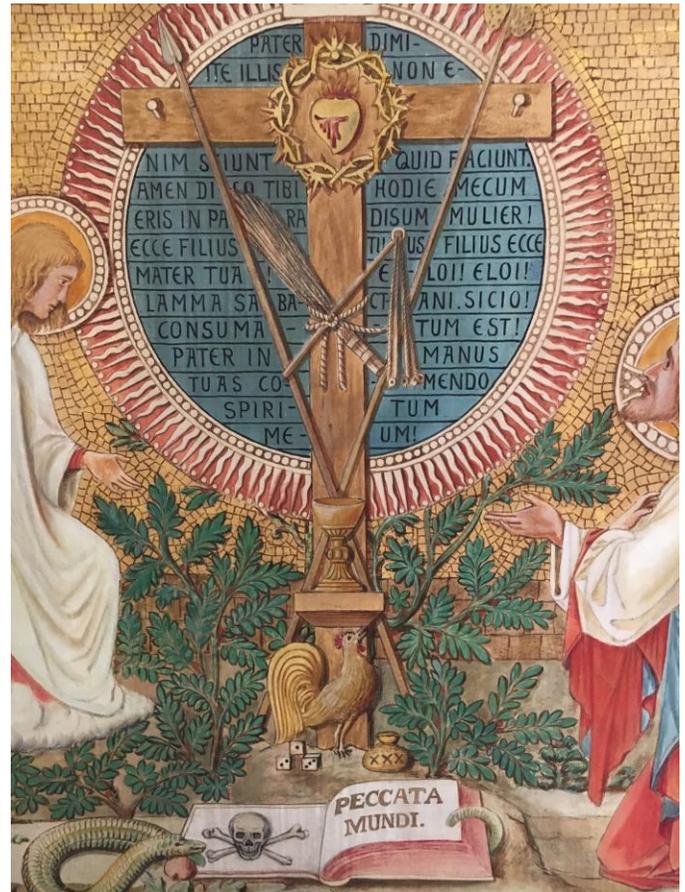
Holy Saturday mass starts at 8:00 PM with the lighting of the fire and blessing of the Easter

Candle. This year's service will be highlighted when Mary Skolarski and Tiffany Pledger join the church after having gone through RCIA since last fall. Please pray for them. I know the mass is long and it makes for a long evening, but it's truly a glorious service. I love the responsorial "I Will Sing to the Lord, Triumphant is He." I got a hankering to hear a recording of it last summer, but couldn't find the same version on You-Tube. I'd love to see a film of our church's (Amy plus the congregational response) performance posted there.

The word on the street indicates the Daughters of Mary had a very good meeting on March 31. Trish reportedly asked members to take leadership roles for specific months/events, which sounds like an excellent idea. They sponsored the April birthday party at the Ozark Nursing home Saturday afternoon. I hope it went well. They say thanks to all who attended and helped. Their next meeting is set for May 5 after Sunday mass.

Also coming on May 19 will be the celebration of the parish's latest group of first communicants. We have just two candidates, Wyatt Cowell, son of James and Jaime Cowell, and Lane Hamilton, son of Chris and Erin Hamilton. What the group lacks in quantity, I'm sure they make up for it with quality. The first communion celebration will be followed by a parish breakfast in Lawrence Hall, in which the boys will be honored along with all parishioners graduating from high school and college. Notify Vicki Ross if you have a family graduate. Be at the celebration or be (un)square.

The youth kindness challenge sponsored by the youth education ministry (led by Lexie Highfill) has produced about \$60 for the Lenten rice bowl charity so far. I would certainly encourage the youngsters to get involved in this or in other charitable work. There is little more emotionally gratifying than helping out someone truly in need of assistance. I know I could use some help getting my strawberry patch weeded. Anyone (almost) who cares to help will be rewarded with strawberries this spring. I'm not sure about Todd Schultz though. I'm afraid he'd come along while I was stooped over pulling weeds and push me over on my 'assets.'



There's no quiz on this month's picture from the church. This is obviously a detail of the "Agony in the Garden" panel before the first Station of the Cross. Have you ever looked at the details of this painting? Essentially, this depicts virtually every torment Jesus faces during his passion. The cross and nails, the crown of thorns, the lance, the scourge, the cock crowing upon Peter's betrayal, the dice for his clothes and the thirty pieces of silver. The snake presumably represents Satan, and the apple, original sin. The words in the book, "PECCATA MUNDI," translate to "The Sins of the World," reminding us that he carried our sins with him to the cross & beyond. Observe also, the cup, from which he asked the Father to spare him, as well as the Latin words in the blue medallion. Those are the '7 Last Words of Christ' he spoke on the cross. See "The Church" page of the St Mary's website and look just above the explanation of the gold lettering on the western exterior of the church for a link to a detailed description of the church's artwork. That holds an explanation of the inscriptions.

Daniel "One of Burl & Gert's" Vaught